In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1. The status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A single pole magnetic head comprising:

an auxiliary pole;

a main pole terminated at a position receding from a medium-opposed surface, the main pole having ~~a rear magnetically connected to the auxiliary pole and~~ a lower surface opposed to the auxiliary pole at a distance;

a connection piece connecting the rear of the main pole to the auxiliary pole at a center of a coil pattern;

an intermediate magnetic layer extending forward toward the medium-opposed surface from an upper surface of the main pole and terminating at a position receding from the medium-opposed surface; and

a tip magnetic layer extending to the medium-opposed surface from an upper surface of the intermediate magnetic layer, and being exposed at the medium-opposed surface.

2. (Previously Presented) The single pole magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein a front end of the intermediate magnetic layer is positioned closer to the medium-opposed surface than a front end of the main pole.

3. (Previously Presented) The single pole magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein a primary magnetic pole tip region is defined in the tip magnetic layer, the primary magnetic pole tip region extending rearward from the medium-opposed surface, keeping a constant lateral width.

4. (Previously Presented) The single pole magnetic head according to claim 3, wherein a front end of the intermediate magnetic layer is positioned closer to the medium-opposed surface than a rear end of the primary magnetic pole tip region.

5. (Previously Presented) The single pole magnetic head according to claim 3, wherein the primary magnetic pole tip region has a front end surface exposed at the medium-opposed surface, a leading edge of the front end surface being reduced in lateral width than a trailing edge of the front end surface.

6. (Previously Presented) The single pole magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein a flat surface is defined on a surface of the main pole so as to receive the intermediate magnetic layer.

7. (Previously Presented) The single pole magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein a flat surface is defined on a surface of the intermediate magnetic layer so as to receive the tip magnetic layer.

8. (Previously Presented) The single pole magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate magnetic layer defines an inclined surface expanding outward from an outer periphery of the tip magnetic layer, a foot of the inclined surface being received on the main pole.

9. (Canceled)